

LETTER TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS ON BEHALF OF EUROPE'S CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTORS

*Dear Heads of State and Government,
Ministers for European Affairs,
Ministers for Culture,*

Culture has always been a vibrant social resource, able to heal wounds in times of crisis. Culture carries tremendous intrinsic value and contributes significantly to the economy, with **4.2% of the EU GDP** and **7.4 million jobs** created.

As our societies are going through an unprecedented turmoil, **we call on the EU and its Member States to place culture at the core of each and every recovery plan, which aims at a sustainable, inclusive and future-looking revival of our social and economic life.**

Cultural and creative sectors (CCSs) themselves are among the most seriously damaged by the pandemic. Cultural activities are being halted, millions of jobs are frozen or wiped out, micro and small businesses are on the brink of bankruptcy and many talents are forced to leave the sector altogether.

On top of that, we are at the beginning of a second wave in Europe that will undoubtedly increase the impact of the pandemic crisis on the CCSs.

This unprecedented uncertainty prevents the CCSs from bouncing back, devising viable short and medium-term plans and imagining a different future. There is a risk that citizens will not find their vibrant cultural life back in the post-pandemic world. This would be a huge loss in terms of social cohesion, communities' empowerment, individual well-being, and the economic revival of Europe.

While some first steps have been taken to support the CCSs, the ongoing pandemic and the measures taken to contain it continue to have severe effects on the entire cultural and creative ecosystem. More actions are needed to rescue the CCSs from total devastation.

On 28 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a Proposal for a Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which is meant to help the Member States to address the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and boost their recovery. The Member States are invited to design their recovery and resilience plans, detailing how the RRF resources will be allocated and spent.

Culture is recognised by the European Commission as one of the 14 priority ecosystems for the recovery of Europe. Moreover, CCSs are extremely relevant for each of the four main objectives outlined in the Commission's Staff Working Document "Guidance to Member States Recovery and Resilience Plans": i) CCSs contribute to the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion; ii) carry a tremendous resource for economic and social resilience; iii) have a key role to play in mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis; and iv) have the potential to facilitate and boost the green and digital transitions. Therefore, the cultural and creative sectors as a whole should be considered as an indispensable part of your recovery and resilience plans.

Therefore, we, the pan-European community of 110 networks and associations, urge you to make sure that CCSs are consulted in the design of and integrated in the national recovery and resilience plan of your respective countries.

Namely, **we ask that at the very least 2% of your national RRF budget is allocated to the CCSs**, as called for by the European Parliament in its recent Resolution on the "Cultural Recovery of Europe", and that culture is an integral part of your recovery and resilience plans, that could be also mainstreamed across the flagship initiatives identified by the Commission.

It is our common duty to preserve culture in these challenging times, and we hope you will do everything possible to safeguard the diversity, vibrancy and richness of Europe's CCSs.

SIGNATORIES:

Amateo - Europe's Network for Active Participation in Culture | Arty Farty | Association de Producteurs de Cinéma et de Télévision (Eurocinema) | Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontre (ACCR) | Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) | Association of European Performers' Organisations (AEPO-ARTIS) | Association of European Radios (AER) | b.creative network | Biennale des Jeunes Créateurs de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (BJEM) | BOZAR - Centre for Fine Arts | Centre Européen de Musique (CEM) | Centre of the Picture Industry (CEPIC) | Circostrada - European Network for Circus and Street Arts | Coalitions Européennes pour la Diversité Culturelle (CEDC) | Confédération internationale des cinémas d'art et d'essai (CICAE) | Culture Action Europe (CAE) | De Concert! Fédération Internationale de Festivals | European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) | ELIA - globally connected European network of higher arts education | ESNS (Eurosonic Noorderslag) | EU National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) | Europa Cinemas | Europa Distribution - The European Network of Independent Film Publishers and Distributors | Europa Nostra | Europavox | Europe Jazz Network (EJN) | European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) | European Arenas Association (EAA) | European Association for Music in Schools (EAMS) | European Association of Independent Music Companies (IMPALA) | European Audiovisual Production (CEPI) | European Children's Film Association (ECFA) | European Choral Association - Europa Cantat (ECA-EC) | European Composer & Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) | European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO) | European Council of Associations of Literary Translators (CEATL) | European Creative Business Network (ECBN) | European Creative Hubs Network (ECHN) | European Cultural Foundation | European Dancehouse Network (EDN) | European Fashion Heritage Association (EFHA) | European Federation of Fortified Sites (EFFORTS) | European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) | European Federation of National Youth Orchestras (EFNYO) | European Festivals Association (EFA) | European Games Developer Federation (EGDF) | European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers (GESAC) | European Historic Thermal Towns Association (EHTTA) | European Music Council (EMC) | European Music Exporters Exchange (EMEE) | European Music School Union (EMU) | European network for live music associations (Live DMA) | European Network for Opera and Dance Education (RESEO) | European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC) | European Network on Cultural Management and Policy (ENCATC) | European Publishers Council (EPC) | European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) | European Theatre Convention (ETC) | European Union of Music Competitions for Youth (EMCY) | Europeana Foundation | Europeana Network Association | Eurozine | Fédération européenne des écoles de cirque professionnelles (FEDEC) | Federation of European Publishers (FEP) | Federation of European Screen Directors (FERA) | Federation of Screenwriters in Europe | Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) | ICMP - The global voice of music publishing | IFPI - representing the recording industry worldwide | IN SITU, European platform for artistic creation in public space | Independent Music Publishers International Forum (IMPF) | Innovation Network of European Showcases (INES) | Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE) | International Artist Organisation of Music (IAO) | International Association of Art (IAA) Europe | International Association of Music Information Centres (IAMIC) | International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) | International Federation of Actors (FIA) | International Federation of Film Distributors' Associations (FIAD) | International Federation of Film Producers Association (FIAPF) | International Federation of Musicians (FIM) | International Music+Media Centre (IMZ) | International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (IETM) | International Video Federation (IVF) | Jeunesses Musicales International (JMI) | Kids REGIO | Literature Across Frontiers (LAF) | Liveurope - the live music platform for new European talent | Michael Culture Association (MCA) | National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) | Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) | News Media Europe | Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDCP) | On the Move | Opera Europa | Pearle* - Live Performance Europe | REMA - European Early Music Network | Res Artis - Worldwide Network of Arts Residencies | SHAPE platform | System Europe | Société des Auteurs et Compositeurs Dramatiques (SACD) | South East European (SEE) Heritage Network | The European Network for Professional Chamber Choirs (Tenso) | The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) | The Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA) | Trans Europe Halles (TEH) | UNI Global Union - media, entertainment & arts (UNI MEI) | Union Internationale de Cinémas (UNIC) | We are Europe | Yourope - The European Festival Association



